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SENSITIVE
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SUBJECT: ICI: UK FOREIGN SECRETARY WILL PROBABLY ATTEND

REF: A. STATE 43799

1B. TSOU-TAECKER EMAILS/TELCONS

11. (SBU) UK Foreign Secretary David Miliband will probably lead the UK delegation to the May 29 International Compact with Iraq (ICI) Ministerial in Stockholm, Miliband's Chief of Staff Matthew Gould told us May 9. The UK is not planning any deliverables for the meeting, FCO Iraq Group officers Tim Ayres and Graeme Plato told us May 8, although it will highlight its ongoing assistance efforts in the south, particularly the Basra Development Council. Nonetheless, HMG is working with Sweden on a strong statement of support for the ICI that would be issued at the GAERC meeting on May 28. This statement will probably not contain concrete deliverables, but it will be more substantive than the previous GAERC statement from November 2007, Plato said.

12. (SBU) HMG feels strongly that the ICI Secretariat needs to be transformed into an effective body with full-time, trained personnel, and will press the Iraqi government to fund a permanent office and staff, Ayres and Plato said. The lack of such an organization means that many ICI goals and objectives tend to lie dormant between international meetings, Ayres said. He noted that the UK Department for International Development (DFID) had dispatched trainers to Iraq to train staff after the Sharm El Sheikh meeting, but that the trainers had returned home when it became clear there would be no staff to train.

13. (SBU) The UK is concerned about the World Bank presence in Iraq and would be happy to assist the U.S. in talking to the World Bank about increasing its mission, if desirable, Ayres said. Ayres and Plato also agreed to follow up on U.S. conversations by finding ways for UK officials to press Poland and Greece on debt relief.
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